15: U.S. Navy--30 [7] (no date) 1944 Formosans
116, 565, 511, 105

"The worldly possessions of a coolie-class Formosan-Chinese, the day laborer of the towns and villages, consist of the blue cotton clothes on his back, and perhaps a change for special occasions, a loose smock-like upper garment and black trousers for his wife with an ornament and black headband to wear upon her head, similar clothes (though perhaps in white or light blue) for the younger members of the family, and the simplest of furniture in the house. A table, benches, one or two wooden springless beds, a brazier for cooking, together with chopsticks, bowls, a pot or two, some cups without handles, and the kitchen knives, make up the furniture. If the family can afford it, there may be a bicycle and a two-wheeled carry-all bicycle trailer called a 'riakka' (from the English 'rear-car'), which can be used for hauling an incredible number of objects, including the elders in the family, or livestock for the market. For those who cannot affort [sic] a bicycle, a simple shoulder pole with ropes and side baskets may suffice as professional equipment. For rainy weather, a coconut palm fiber raincape is worn, making the figure seem grotesque to unfamiliar eyes."

162 563 over most of the island. However, an increasing number of Chinese immigrants, with their superior civilization, pushed these natives into mountainous areas and thereafter occupied the fertile lowlands of the island.

563 105 According to language, custom, and physical characteristics, the aborigines are commonly divided into seven tribes: Taiyal, Saiset, Bunun, Ami, Paiwan, Tsou, and Yami. Although physical characteristics may vary, they are generally brave warriors and can run long distance or climb steep mountains and cross swift streams with skill and speed. Their short stature, light-brown skin, and straight black hair, as well as their language and customs, suggest a close resemblance to the Malays of the South Seas. They are independent in nature, passionate in temperament, and show respect for the aged and love for the young. They live in villages and build huts made of wood and stones. Some 70,000 aborigines are called Pepohuan, meaning assimilated savages. Their customs and activities are similar to those of the Formosan Chinese who had assimilated them in the lowlands. Tribesmen who were not able to bear the economic and cultural pressures exerted upon them fled to the mountainous interior.

1. This estimate is the result of reconciling various estimates offered by writers on Formosa's population. The analyses in this chapter, however, will be based on the total registered population because the household registry system provides the only statistics available on the population. The total registered population in 1953 was 8,438,016.